

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8693

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 01730

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: XO, US, UK

SUBJECT: PUBLICITY ON DIEGO GARCIA AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 024231

1. EMBASSY OFFICER DISCUSSED REFTEL WITH ROBERT CORMACK IN FCO DEFENSE DEPARTMENT. THE FOREIGN OFFICE WOULD NOW LIKE TO PUT FORWARD A COMPROMISE PROPOSAL WHICH IN EFFECT COMBINES IN A FORTY-EIGHT HOUR SCENARIO THE SIGNATURE OF THE AGREEMENT, THE ANNOUNCEMENT, AND THE SUBMISSION TO OUR RESPECTIVE LEGISLATURES. CORMACK HAS ARRANGED FOR THE PRINTING OFFICE HERE TO GIVE THE AGREEMENT ITS HIGHEST PRIORITY SO THAT FINAL COPIES WILL BE AVAILABLE WITHIN TWO DAYS AFTER SIGNATURE. ON THE SECOND DAY FOLLOWING THE PRIVATE SIGNING AND EXCHANGES OF NOTES, A PLANTED PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION WILL GIVE HMG THE OPPORTUNITY TO ANNOUNCE THE COMPLETION OF THE AGREEMENT. (CORMACK POINTED OUT THAT PARLIAMENT IS SENSITIVE TO LEARNING THE NEWS OF A GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT AFTER THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY INFORMED THE PRESS.) USG COULD SIMULTANEOUSLY HANDLE OUR ANNOUNCEMENT AS WE SEE FIT. FCO THEREFORE PROPOSES A PRIVATE SIGNATURE ON DAY X FOLLOWED BY ANNOUNCEMENT AND SUBMISSION TWO DAYS AFTERWARDS.

2. CORMACK HAS ALSO ASKED FOR THE PRECISE WORDING WE
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PLAN TO USE IN THE COVER LETTER TRANSMITTING THE AGREE-

MENT TO CONGRESS. FCO WISHES TO ADHERE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE TO OUR LANGUAGE, PARTICULARLY THE EXPLANATION OF CLAUSE THREE AND ITS OBLIQUE REFERENCE TO THE MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION.

3. FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN APPROVED THE AGREEMENT FEBRUARY 3 AND IT HAS NOW BEEN TRANSMITTED TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE. CORMACK EXPECTS WILSON'S APPROVAL BEFORE THE END OF THE WEEK WHICH WILL OPEN THE WAY TO THE SCENARIO DESCRIBED ABOVE IF WE AGREE. FCO BELIEVES IT HAS COMPROMISED EXTENSIVELY ON THE QUESTION OF HANDLING THE PUBLICITY OF THE AGREEMENT.

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